

# Morning Telegram.

GRAND RAPIDS, JAN. 15, 1885.

## MINOR MICHIGAN MATTERS.

Montague is to have a first-class open-house.

Conklin & Foster, dealers in furniture at Adrian, made an assignment Saturday.

Sunday night Farwell had a \$10,000 fire which nearly wiped out the business part.

The Ithaca roller rink burned Monday night. It was valued at \$1,500; insurance about \$1,000.

The Winona shingle-mill near Meredith is manufacturing 40,000 per day. Twenty men are employed.

The doctors in Muskegon county will not testify in court in the future unless they receive pay as expert witnesses.

Francis Crawford, a resident of Casperville since 1856, and practically the owner of the place, was buried there Jan. 13.

Wood choppers in Northern Michigan—both sides of the straits—are happy. They have plenty of work and fair wages.

Alpena's Common Council will give \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who started the recent mill and fish-bone fires.

Gov. Alger is said to have declared that he has not known anything of the reported resignation of Justice Thomas M. Cooley, of the Supreme Court.

The twentieth annual party of Company H, 25th Michigan infantry, will be held at Portage Center Hotel, Portage, Thursday evening, Jan. 29, 1885.

In consequence of his illness Major Whittle has sent Col. Clark, of Chicago, to take his place temporarily in charge of the review meetings at Jackson.

The ice in Wolf lake has not frozen so winter sufficiently strong to render safe to venture upon it. The reasons probably is that the lake is made by springs.

The Board of Supervisors of Washenaw county want to use \$12,000 for an addition to the jail. It is thought the appropriation will be defeated at the next election.

Edward Welsh, the well-known coal and wood dealer at Detroit, made an assignment yesterday for the benefit of his creditors. It is believed that the embarrassment is only temporary.

A former resident of Homer, Calhoun county, J. M. Westcott, died on Monday at Trinidad, Col., his residence. Deceased was the father of Mrs. William G. Doty, of Ann Arbor.

Charles Draper, of Biggs, Mich., was arrested at Toledo on Tuesday charged with passing counterfeit money in Fulton county, Ohio. He was taken to Toledo and the hearing fixed for yesterday.

Secretary Baxter, of the State Board of Charities, says that the annual expenses of the Board are less than \$5,000, which includes his own salary of \$2,000, clerk hire, traveling expenses, stationery, printing, etc.

The firm of Conklin & Foster, undertakers and furniture dealers at Adrian, closed their doors Saturday morning, having made an assignment. The liabilities are placed at \$4,500, with assets fully up to the same figure.

The rear wall of a building in Jackson tumbled down on Saturday, giving the occupants a great fright. The rear of a saloon near by settled two feet, and the family hastily moved out to a place of safety. The loss is about \$300.

The jury in the matter of the inquest on the body of Martha Bell, which was concluded at Belleville, Tuesday, brought in a verdict that Martha Bell came to her death from an overdose of aconite administered by Myron M. Bumpus.

At 10:30 o'clock Monday morning fire was discovered in the rectory of St. John's church, Saginaw City, and before it was controlled the roof and second story was considerably burned and the entire house badly damaged by water. The cause was a defective chimney.

While driving along the road Friday afternoon, George LaPorte, of Carlton, a Frenchman, was struck on the head by the limb of a tree blown down by the wind. From the effects of his injuries he died Friday night at 9 o'clock. He leaves a wife and five children.

The annual meeting of the Monitor Insurance Company, of Oakland County, was held at the Court House at Pontiac, Monday. The Secretary's report shows that the company has paid in assessments for losses and expenses since its organization, May 25, 1870, the sum of \$25,038, an average yearly rate of 1.6 per \$1,000.

J. N. Smith, lately a resident of Bath, Clinton county, and formerly President of the Central Michigan Fair, was frozen to death last week in Dakota, having been overtaken by a blizzard while he was on his way with his household effects to his ranch and within thirty miles of his destination.

John Gray, of Jackson, was Monday morning sentenced to Loma by Justice Palmer for three months for stealing surgical instruments from Dr. Schenck of that city. The prisoner claims to be a graduate of Ann Arbor medical school, and also says he belongs to some of the secret societies. He had been drinking heavily for several days before taking the instruments.

The experience of South Bay City is the same as that of other cities, no doubt, if the fact were voiced more. The library there which has usually been well patronized at this time of the year is much neglected this winter. Few young people can spare time from the serious business of skating to spend an evening with a light and trifling occupation as reading.

Speaker Clark has appointed the following liaisons messengers of the House: Eddie Long, Detroit; Fred W. Williams, Jackson; Arba N. Moulton, Van Buren; Augustus Carlton, Genesee; Fred Baldwin, Montcalm; Frank Chamberlain, Manistee; Percy R. Clark, Midland; R. Gardner Dodge, Ingham; Charles R. Warren, Calhoun; George H. Moore, cedar, of Alpena, is appointed assistant in the clock room.

The fifth annual meeting of the Union Mutual Insurance Company, for the election of officers occurred at their offices in Battle Creek, on Tuesday. The company shows an annual income for 1884, and amount on hand of \$20,814.62. Disbursements to policyholders for losses and premiums returned, \$28,894.49. Total disbursements to policyholders and expenses of management, \$47,691.24. Total invested and contingent assets, \$19,255.82. Liabilities, nothing. Average cost of insurance per year, \$8.00 per \$1,000. Average cost of membership, \$2.24.

President Hamphrey of the State Agricultural society says that there is no state society in this Union that has made such progress, and achieved such results during the past few years as the Michigan association. He thinks the society has become too large, and is of the opinion that the only way to remedy this difficulty would be to reduce the number of premiums in the live stock department. If the general system of farming were changed, and farmers should raise less wheat and enter more largely into mixed farming, it would be better for the State and the people in general. The President also spoke of side-shows at fairs. He regards them as an intolerable nuisance, pernicious in their effects and influences, and a disturbing element to the usefulness of the fair. Such absurd folly should be consigned to infamy.

## A CUNNING CRANK.

The Kind of Geniuses That Flourish in Colorado.

A Denver Man Who Sets at Naught the Laws Which Govern Mind and Matter—He Holds the Power of Life and Death in His Hands, He Believes.

[Denver News.]

Among the thousands who walk our streets—the keen-eyed son of trade, the thoughtful student, the wan consumptive with a hopeless look in his gleaming eyes, the well-dressed gambler, the professional thief, or the honest-looking artisan—can be seen men, and women, too, with that queer look upon their features, abstracted air and muttered talk which betrays the crank. Among all whose steps beat the busy street no one is more remarkable than a small, dries-up specimen of humanity who daily promenades Larimer and Sixteenth streets, his principal thoroughfares.

He is generally clad in an ill-fitting suit of gray, short frock coat out at the elbows, pants frayed at the heels and bagged at the knees, shoes worn down at the heels and turned up at the toes, soiled linen, and a battered stove-pipe hat. The face is wan, and is covered with a scanty growth of iron-gray beard, the mustache long, drooping, and tobacco colored.

The nose, lean, long and pointed, eyes of bluish gray, small, sharp, yet watery. His hair of a fine brown hue, tinged with silver threads, falls, a la Joaquin Miller, on a greasy collar. Muttering to himself, he goes straight ahead, peering before him, as if looking for the philosopher's stone or the pearl of great price. Such is Pierre Vedalique, the alchemist, astrologer and professor of the occult sciences.

Old Pierre, who grows loquacious when treated to a glass of beer, was engaged in conversation by a News reporter yesterday. He gradually became so enthusiastic at the attention shown to his vagaries that he condescendingly invited the scribe to visit his laboratory, which offer was eagerly accepted.

"Hold, my friend," said the old man, a maniac gleaming into his eyes, and moving cautiously to the door he closed it. Returning he continued: "I have a grand scheme. That remnant in yonder burial-case shall be a man. You shall furnish the soul in the interest of science."

"Hold, my friend," said the old man, as he sprang for the door, wrenched it open, and went down stairs four steps at a time, not stopping to pick up his hat. He didn't care for it. The atmosphere was oppressive, and he wanted fresh air. He doesn't care to interview another crank, either."

"I am now easily satisfied."

The reporter informed the old philosopher that he knew of no young lady of his acquaintance who would be willing to make the sacrifice.

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"No; thanks!" yelled the reporter, as he sprang for the door, wrenched it open, and went down stairs four steps at a time, not stopping to pick up his hat. He didn't care for it. The atmosphere was oppressive, and he wanted fresh air. He doesn't care to interview another crank, either."

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